



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2004

CONTACT: Rose Melgoza
(909) 383-6477
Cell (909) 289-2836

**\$317 MILLION TRANSPORTATION PROJECT
BREAKS GROUND IN RIVERSIDE FOR 60/91/215 INTERCHANGE**

RIVERSIDE – Business Transportation and Housing Secretary, Sunne Wright McPeak announced today the groundbreaking for the much anticipated 60/91/215 freeway improvement project that will benefit 150,000 motorists who use the interchange daily. State and local officials will attend the Riverside ceremony.

The \$317 million project provides critical links between major Inland Empire communities in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties and serves the major flow of commuter and commercial traffic throughout the region. The improvements will relieve congestion and improve mobility and safety across the region for the increasing number of commuters who use this interchange.

“This is the second largest transportation improvement project in the state and the largest for the Inland Empire,” Sunne Wright McPeak said. “When completed, motorists will see a dramatic improvement in their commute by getting home sooner to their families.”

“The reconstruction of this interchange is one of the most significant transportation projects in Riverside County’s history,” said Riverside County Transportation Commission board chairman Roy Wilson. “Keeping this project on track is absolutely essential to our economy, in creating jobs and ensuring a bright future for the region.”

The safety and access improvements call for the addition of two new freeway-to-freeway connectors, freeway widening, mixed flow lanes to increase capacity, extended carpool lanes and a truck-climbing lane at the I-215/SR-60 interchange in Moreno Valley. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will use the innovative Design Sequencing method to advance construction up to one year ahead of schedule, completing the project in 2007.

Caltrans has maintained a close partnership with Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and the Federal Highway Administration to see this project becomes a reality.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the Mission Inn in downtown Riverside at 10:30 a.m. today.

###